

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are now pending in the application. By this amendment, Claims 4, 5, 14 and 15 have been amended. No new matter has been added. The preceding amendment and the following remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the outstanding Office Action and are believed to place the application in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained therein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 4 has been amended to call for “a joined area.” In this manner, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 4 is in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-7 and 14-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art (APA hereinafter) in view of Hida et al. (US 5936695).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

At the outset, Applicants note that to establish a *prima facie* case of obviousness, three basic criteria must be met. First, there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. Second, there must be a reasonable expectation of success. Finally, the prior art reference (or references when combined) must teach or suggest all the claim limitations. See MPEP § 2143. Furthermore, in establishing a *prima facie* case of obviousness, the teaching or suggestion to make the claimed combination and the reasonable expectation of success must both be found in the prior art, not in applicant's disclosure. *In re Vaeck*, 947 F.2d 488, 20 USPQ2d 1438 (Fed. Cir. 1991).

Independent Claim 1 calls for at least one substrate having “an alignment mark at a position corresponding to the position of the sealing material or the anisotropic conductive material” while independent Claim 5 similarly calls for at least one substrate having “an alignment mark formed so as to be at least partially superimposed on a joined area between the sealing material and the anisotropic conductive material, or formed so as to be adjacent to the joined area.” See Specification at pg. 24, Ins. 22-25 and pg. 25, Ins. 1-2. In this manner, the present invention calls for an alignment mark (15, 16) formed on at least one of the substrates which aligns the ends (2b) of the sealing material (2) and/or the ends (3b) of the anisotropic conductive material (3) relative to a substrate. See Specification at pg. 24, Ins. 22-25 and Figures 3 and 4. In other words, the alignment marks align one of the sealing material and the anisotropic conductive material relative to a substrate and not to align individual substrates. Such a relationship is not taught or suggested by either APA or Hida.

Rather, Hida teaches alignment marks (371, 373 and 271, 273) formed on an array substrate (100) and a counter substrate (300), respectively. See Hida at Col. 6, Ins. 8-10 and Figure 5. Furthermore, Hida teaches using respective pairs of alignment marks to properly align pairs of substrates, noting that “the relative position between both substrates 100 and 300 is adjusted while monitoring the two sets of alignment marks 271, 273, 371, 373 and their surroundings.” See Hida at Col. 6, Ins. 61-65. In this manner, Hida fails to teach or suggest using alignment marks to properly align a sealing material or an anisotropic conductive material relative to a single substrate.

Because both APA and Hida fail to teach or suggest alignment marks aligned with a sealing material or an anisotropic conductive material on a single substrate, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 1 and 5, as well as Claims 2-4 and 6-7, respectively dependent therefrom, are in a condition for allowance in light of the art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 14 calls for “a joined area between the sealing material and the anisotropic conductive material is formed to have a width substantially the same as, or thinner than other portions.” Similarly, independent Claim 15 calls for at least one of an inner edge and an outer edge in a joined area between the sealing material and the anisotropic conductive material to be “formed in a flat shape with respect to portions of both sides of the joined area, or in a shape retracted from portions of both sides” while independent Claim 17 calls for an inner edge of the joined area being “formed in a flat shape with respect to the portions of both sides of the joined area, or in a shape

retracted from the portions of both sides.” See Specification at pg. 40, Ins. 19-25 and pg. 41, Ins. 1-2.

In this manner, the present invention discloses ends (2b and 3b) of the sealing material (2) and anisotropic conductive material (3), respectively, being formed such that they are either flush with, or recessed from, side portions of the sealing material and anisotropic conductive material. See Figure 12(E). As can be appreciated, when the sealing material and anisotropic conductive material are joined, such a relationship provides a width of the sealing section in the joined area approximately equal to the width of side portions of the sealing material and anisotropic materials, respectively. See Specification at pg. 40, Ins. 12-18 and Figure 12(E). In this regard, a consistent and generally uniform joint between the sealing material and anisotropic conductive material is established. Such a relationship is not taught or suggested by APA or Hida.

The Examiner has not provided a reference that teaches or suggests a joint region between a sealing material and an anisotropic conductive material having a side portion formed substantially flush with, or recessed from, side portions of the sealing material and anisotropic material.

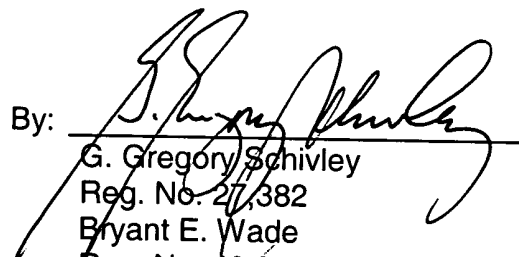
Because both APA and Hida fail to teach or suggest a joint region between a sealing material and an anisotropic conductive material having a side portion formed substantially flush with, or recessed from, side portions of the sealing material and anisotropic material, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claims 14, 15, and 17, as well as Claim 16, respectively dependent therefrom, are in a condition for allowance in light of the art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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